

# Your role in transition

*First of all we need to say*

***Congratulations!***

*You are about to take a big step.*

*You are becoming  
more independent and moving from school  
and children's services to adult services.*

As you get older and become more independent you will need to start learning and thinking about some of the issues below.

- It is important that you know about your brain injury and how it may affect you.
- You will need to know who your doctors and therapists are, why you see them and how to seek emergency medical help yourself.
- Start thinking about your plans for the future. These plans should include what your interests and goals are, what training you want or where you want to work.
- Keep in mind that your goals need to be realistic. Everyone is good at some things but not as good at others. Concentrate on what you can do and where you can use these skills.



# Your role in transition

- Ask your parents, friends and family what they think you could learn to do. You may not have thought about some of the things they suggest.
- You need to know that you have the right to be treated with respect and have your opinion heard. If you do not think that you are being treated fairly you may want to learn who can help you make a complaint.
- Try to look after your own money and pay for some items. You may want to learn how Medicare, private health insurance and your compensation payout work.
- Look at the tasks that you still need to learn to become more independent. Ask for some help learning these. You may need to learn how to clean the house, wash clothes, catch public transport.
- Your doctor will start talking directly with you to obtain your view.

*Your case manager may sit down with you to work out your plan for transition. They may talk about many of these issues. To become more independent you will need to put in some effort to learn new skills. You will also be saying goodbye to the doctors and therapists that have helped you a lot. Although this may be difficult to do it is a good sign that you are becoming an adult and more independent, just like others your age.*

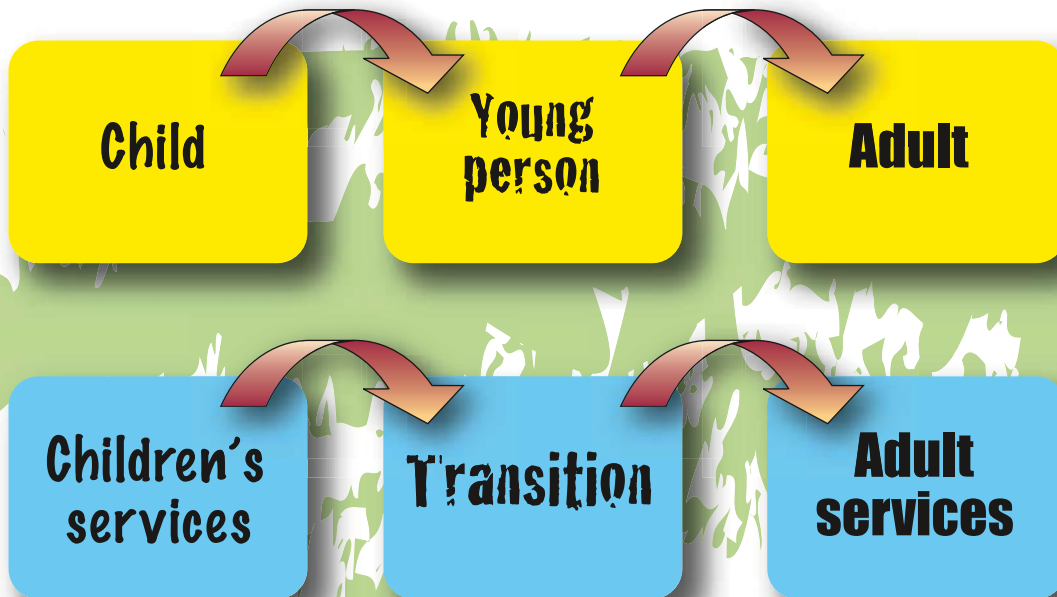


# What is transition?

**A** S everyone matures from childhood to adulthood they have to change from using children's services to using adult services.

When you start to think about leaving school you will also need to think about linking up with some adult services.

People will be talking to you about this transition. Transition is the planned move from services for children to services for adults.



# How are adult services different from children's services?

**L**IKE every adolescent, as you get older you will become more independent. You will want to do more and more things for yourself. You will not need your family to do as much for you.

This is the same in the adult services. They will require you to be more independent. People working with you may want to speak with you directly and ask your opinion. Your case manager, rehabilitation staff and your doctor may start asking you to make decisions about your life. They will not always ask your parents.

Some of the tasks that you may need to learn to do for yourself are:

- Learn to pick out your own clothes to wear
- Learn to dress yourself
- Learn to cook
- Learn to clean your house
- Learn how to catch a bus or a train
- Learn how to do the shopping
- Learn about your brain injury
- Talk with your doctor without your parents present

You may know how to do these things already but there may be other things that you can learn to become more independent.



# How are adult services different from children's services?

**I**N an adult service they may talk about some things you have never talked about before. These may include issues such as sexuality, drugs and alcohol and birth control. These are all important issues that you will need to know about as you become an adult.

Going into adult services also means that you will be leaving school. To fill in your time you will need to look at where you would like to work and if you need some training for this, when and where you will see your friends and what sort of physical activity you will do.

**C**HANGING to adult services also involves saying goodbye to the people that helped you in the children's services. This can be difficult and scary, especially if you have known them for a long time. You may need to start seeing a doctor, case manager or other therapists at an adult service and start to build up confidence in them.

The children's service will not say goodbye to you until they think you have become more independent and are ready to make the move.

